



Re-establishment of PCIM&H

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Why in News

Recently, the Union Cabinet has given its approval to re-establish **Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine and Homoeopathy (PCIM&H)** as a **subordinate office** under the **Ministry of AYUSH**.

Pharmacopoeia Laboratory for Indian Medicine (PLIM) and **Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia Laboratory (HPL)**, central laboratories established at **Ghaziabad** (Uttar Pradesh) since **1975**, will be merged into the PCIM&H.

Key Points

- Presently, PCIM&H is an **autonomous body** under the aegis of Ministry of AYUSH, established since **2010**.
- **Pharmacopoeia** is an **officially recognized book of standards** as per the **Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940** and **Rules 1945** thereunder.
 - As per the **Second Schedule of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act**, it is designated as the official book of standards for drugs imported and/or manufactured for sale, stock or exhibition for sale or distribution in India.
 - It specifies the **standards of drugs manufactured and marketed in India** in terms of their **identity, purity and strength**.
- The merger intends to accord legal status to the merged structure of PCIM&H and its laboratory by making the necessary amendments and enabling provisions in the **Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945**.

Consultations have been done with the Director General Health Services, Drugs Controller General and the **Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani Drugs Technical Advisory Board (ASUDTAB)**.

- **Benefits of the Merger:**

- Optimum use of infrastructural facilities, technical manpower and financial resources of the three organizations for enhancing their standardised outcomes.
- Focused and cohesive development of standards of AYUSH drugs and publication of pharmacopoeias and formularies.

Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani Drugs Technical Advisory Board

- ASUDTAB is a **statutory body** under the provisions of **Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940**.
- It **advises the central and state governments** in regulatory matters of **Accelerated Shelf Life Testing (ASLT) drugs**.

Accelerated Shelf Life Testing

- It is an indirect method of measuring and estimating the stability of a product by storing the product under controlled conditions that increase the rate of degradation occurring in the product under normal storage conditions.
- ASLT is **useful for a number of purposes like:**
 - To predict product stability including colour.
 - To determine product safety under abuse conditions.
 - To troubleshoot in the initial stages of product development.
 - To assess the packaging performance of a product.

Source: PIB